

Gardner, Keith, GOV

From: Galvez, Christina, DOH
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2011 10:17 AM
To: Gardner, Keith, GOV
Cc: [REDACTED] Torres, Catherine, DOH; Green, Jim, DOH
Subject: CONCERNS

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Mr. Gardner:

I write you as a concerned employee and a request for your reconsideration for an alternative schedule for myself and the staff of the Office of General Counsel.

As of November 10, 2011, I completed three years with the Department of Health. During my tenure there, I have proven to be a hard working, productive, loyal and dedicated employee. Our office is always staffed from 7:00 a.m. to after 6:00 p.m. We have always taken care of the demands of our clients, whether its our internal clients, external agencies and our outside counsel.

When I started with the Department, it had only been eleven months after losing my 19 year old son in a car accident. The day before this horrible tragedy, I made a decision to leave LANL (a secure higher paying position) so that my son and I could go back to school. I had finally encouraged my son to go to college and I too, wanted to go back to college and further my education as I wanted to be the role model he needed and to continue be a role model to my two other daughters. Never in a million years would have guessed that after I made that decision, that my life would have turned upside down, inside out.

When I was hired at DOH, I needed a focus to be able to learn to cope with such tragedy and devastation in my life. I used my work as a crutch. With the constant demands of our deadlines I constantly put in so much time and energy into my work as each deadline that is not met could potentially cost the Department money. I often worked late and felt I was depriving my family. My daughters especially needed me. After a year of working with DOH, I requested a slightly modified schedule where I would come in a little later and work late, a 9:00 - 6:00 schedule. As a wife, mother and full time employee I was trying to balance my personal life obligations with my work life obligations. In addition, I commute 120 miles a day, spending two hours a day on the road. The flexibility to be able to make a hot breakfast for my family and take my daughters to school was priceless, as I found out the hard way, that life is too short. This was a perk that I looked forward to every day. This was the only perk my supervisors could offer me in the three years with DOH. Our office has always been a busy office and has often been short staffed. We all work hard and for a good period of time I have been the only paralegal for the largest agency in the State. As stated above, we have an extremely busy office with lawsuits, administrative appeals, EEOC/HRD complaints and addressing client needs. With the shortage of staff we have somehow been able to meet the demands. All of us our working so hard because we care about the job that we do and the people we work for.

In nine months with the new leadership, I have been a victim and witnessed Dr. Torres' constant harassment and bullying behavior. I strongly believe that this is an abuse of power. Governor Martinez is about stopping the bullying, however I personally believe she should focus on stopping the

bullying behavior of her appointed officials. Dr. Torres continuously uses her power as our Cabinet Secretary to undermine and humiliate employees. She is constantly criticizing competent staff, removing their responsibilities, giving them trivial tasks to do, shouting at staff and persistently picking on staff in front of others.

Although the work schedules may seem trivial to you and the Governor, this was the only perk we the staff had to stay working at the Department. I personally have nothing to look forward to with an administration that obstructs professional development, the constant attacks and the overloading of work. Dr. Torres has created an environment of low self esteem, lack of confidence, anxiety, depression and mental health problems for her employees. I can't believe the leader in making New Mexico Healthy is causing her own employees to be sick.

This is my personal opinion and I do not wish to be a victim of retaliation by Dr. Torres or her staff.
